

or rhinology, and has shown himself industrious and competent. As the only province of this book will lie among German readers, it is not worth while to give more space to it here than to say that it is an excellent syllabus of otology.

C. H. B.

ART. XXXIV.—*Frozen Sections of a Child.* By THOMAS DWIGHT, M.D., Instructor in Topographical Anatomy and Histology, Harvard College, etc. Fifteen drawings from nature, by H. P. Quincy, M.D. pp. 63. New York: Wm. Wood & Co., 1881.

IN this handsome volume Dr. Dwight has figured, and elaborately described a number of sections of the neck and trunk of the body of a female child three years of age. The plan of the work is essentially that of an atlas, since each figure is described separately, and the bulk of these descriptions make up the volume. The sections represent successive layers of the trunk as divided transversely to the axis of the vertebral column, beginning at the base of the neck and extending thence to the perineum.

While thus making up a series of studies of the visceral anatomy of a child, the author does not confine his comments to the organs divided, but digresses, oftentimes at length, upon the functions and relations of any of the parts appearing within the section, while such remote subjects as the mechanism of the vertebral column and the respiratory movements, the classification of the muscles of the back, the identification of bones from their fragments, etc., are treated of in a sketchy, but always apt manner. The author appears to have used the sections as convenient receptacles for almost any subjects having anatomical use that interested him. For the most part the style is exact and formal, but it occasionally drops to a colloquial plane, as though the author was addressing a class of students. We thus often see some of the baldest statements of an elementary fact cheek by jowl with the latest recondit research.

While assuming that the study of sections will play an important part in the anatomical teaching of the future, Dr. Dwight accedes that it is not adapted to all purposes, and mentions among others of its limitations the imperfect idea the method gives of the nature and arrangement of the fasciæ. Many other limitations might be defined, so many, indeed, that we are inclined to believe that the study of sections will be chiefly useful to advanced students in anatomy, who naturally take delight in finding many familiar objects—made familiar by the accepted method of dissection—taking on unexpected shapes when seen on the plane of a transverse section. That the section of itself does not reveal structure satisfactorily, the state of our knowledge of the spinal cord, the optic and other nerves, can be accepted as evidence. Dr. Dwight practically admits its ineffectiveness in studying the course of the cervical nerves. These nerves are represented on Plate I. as passing out horizontally from the spinal cord, while the author carefully informs us that the nerves do not “arise from the cord opposite their points of exit, but somewhat higher.” In like manner check-statements are continually made as to the relations of parts. The relations are those found in the viscera of the dead body, and are those resultant upon the lung being nearly emptied of its air; the diaphragm and the organs of the hypochondriac and epigastric regions elevated, the stomach and other abdominal organs empty, or nearly so. A series of

studies in which all these conditions are reversed yet remain a desideratum in human anatomy.

Dr. Dwight has executed his task with conscientious care and ability, and this book will take its position as the best expression of the study of frozen sections that has been undertaken in this country.

The admirable drawings of Dr. Quincy demands more than a passing notice. Dr. Quincy is one of the most accomplished of living professional draughtsmen, and these plates are the most satisfactory results of his skill that have yet been published.

H. A.

ART. XXXV.—“*La Terza Centuria d'Ovariectomie in Italia.*”

The Third Hundred Ovariectomies in Italy. By Dr. DOMENICO PERUZZI, of Lugo. (*Raccoglitore Medico*, July 20, 1882.)

THE first Italian ovariectomy bears the date of March 26, 1859, and the first success that of September 26, 1868, which was the tenth operation. Of the first hundred completed operations 63 were fatal; of the second hundred 36;¹ and of the third hundred 27. The first hundred covered a period of eighteen years and eight months; the second hundred two years and seven months; and the third hundred one year and eleven months. The chief operators upon the three hundred cases were Dr. Peruzzi, of Lugo, 26 operations, with 18 cures; Prof. F. Marzolo, of Padua, 23, with 11 cures; Dr. F. Franzolini, of Udine, 21, with 8 cures, and Prof. Landi, of Pisa, 9, with 6 cures. In addition to these three hundred cases there were 18 partial operations, 9 of which were fatal; and 8 exploratory ones, four ending fatally. Of the first hundred ovariectomies 3 were double, and all fatal; of the second hundred 6 were double and 5 fatal; and of the third hundred 5 were double, and all successful.

The 27 deaths in the third hundred were due to the following causes, viz., septic peritonitis 10; septicæmia 5; collapse 6; cardiac thrombosis 3; hemorrhage 1; intestinal occlusion 1; and chloroform poisoning 1. The one hundred operations were performed by 46 operators, 28 of whom operated but once, saving collectively 17 women, or a fraction over 60 per cent. One half of the cases were under the care of nine operators, who collectively saved 79 per cent.

The greatly improved results of the third hundred over the first is attributed to the antiseptic treatment of the later operations. The chief value of these Italian records lies in the fact that they are not the statistics of one or a few experienced and expert ovariectomists, such as Mr. Spencer Wells, Dr. Thomas Keith, Mr. Knowsley Thornton, or Dr. Karl Schroeder, but those of all Italy. Seventy-three per cent. of cures is a good result, when we consider that a large proportion of the operators had never had a case before. Would Great Britain, Germany, or America furnish a better general record? We are accustomed to rate the mortality in ovariectomy by the results obtained by world-renowned operators. By the close of 1883 we shall probably have another hundred cases from Italy, from which we may anticipate still better results, as through her journals the foundations of Keith's great success have recently been explained to her gynecological surgeons.

R. P. H.

¹ See this Journal for January, 1881, page 270.